Abstract

In species like the catfish Ictalurus balsanus, it is important to know the nutritional requirements to maximize the growth in captivity. The most significant results in weight and total length (p<0.05) were obtained with diet I (53.57% protein). There were not significant differences (p>0.05) in weight and length in fish fed with diets II (39.12% protein) and III (31.13% protein). The highest increments in weight (32.10 mg/día) and in total length (0.30 mm/día) were directly related with highest protein concentration in food. On the other hand, the rates of growth for weight and length; TCA (27.50% and 13.33%), TCR (26.32% and 10.81%) and TCE (12.33% and 8.92%) were significantly different (p<0.05) with diet I. The survival did not differ among the groups of organisms fed with the different diets, which corresponded to 100%. Finally, its possible to conclude that high concentration of protein in food generated bigger influence in growth of I. balsanus, likewise the rates of growth TCA, TCR and TCE increased proportionally with the content of proteins in food.

Keywords

Ictalurus balsanus, rate of growth, diets, proteins, captivity